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Feature Articles

[Campus Computing News](#)

Dr. Maurice Leatherbury has more good news this month about the Internet 2 GigaPOP and UNT System Center at Dallas technology plans.

[Automated VirusScan Updates](#)

Wil Clark tells you how you can feel confident that you are being protected from the latest viruses.

[Webmail: Coming Soon to UNT!](#)

Help us choose a Web-based client for student E-mail. Your voice counts, but you need to act now.

[New UNT Search Engine](#)

Check out the new search engine for the UNT Website. You won't believe the things it can turn up!

[UNT Event Calendar Revisited](#)

Last month's article announced the new event calendar. This month's article provides you with more details.

[FrontPage 2000](#)

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FrontPage 2000 is the Web editing software now supported for faculty and staff by Central Web Support. Sharon Marek fills you in on the details in this article.

[Learning Online](#)

In December of 1997, the University of North Texas signed a contract with CBT Systems to provide computer based training (CBT) on a wide variety of computer-related subjects. Read this article to find out about "CBT on the Web" and "CBT on CD-ROM."

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RSS Matters

By [Dr.Karl Ho](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

RSS Moves, a New Era Begins

The Research and Statistical Support office has moved!!! Beginning October 25, we will be working at our new offices in ISB 122 and 124. The phone numbers, however, remain the same: 565-4066 for Karl Ho and 565-2140 for Rich Herrington and Craig Henderson. We hope the new locations will enhance our consulting and other services to the research community on campus. Drop by and see our new rooms.

New Short Courses

Yes, we are headed to uncharted territory in exploring and providing new services. In November, we will provide a new series of short courses regarding survey research. Two classes, titled "New Technologies for Survey Research I & II", will introduce researchers to new ideas and technologies in conducting and administering surveys.

The first class focuses on developing a Web survey and the corresponding procedures in processing and analyzing data collected from Internet surveys. In this three-hour class we will cover the techniques of generating a Web survey using Microsoft FrontPage and formatting the variables for direct data-entry, i.e. the data need not be entered manually and will be ready to use once data are collected. Since it involves quite intensive use of FrontPage and one of our statistical packages, SPSS or SAS, we require you to take a Microsoft FrontPage class and one of our statistical application classes before attending this workshop (or have equivalent experience with that software). **If you want to take this opportunity to launch your new survey on the Web, please [contact us](#) in advance so we can help you in this endeavor.**

The second part of the series, another three-hour class, will cover a new application we recently acquired at the Computing Center -- TeleForm Designer. TeleForm Designer is a very well regarded questionnaire designing package. It helps researchers construct professional questionnaires with embedded features that facilitate data entry using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. Employing high-speed scanner and questionnaires designed by TeleForm Designer, we can significantly expedite the data entry process and shorten the turn-around time. It is recommended registrants of this class be familiar with the survey research methodology or have enrolled in survey research classes prior to attending this workshop. The schedules for these two class are as follows (click [here](#) for other ACS short courses):

New Technologies for Survey Research I -- First in a two part series, this course aims to introduce researchers to new technologies for conducting and administering surveys. This course will focus on creating Web surveys using FrontPage and SPSS or SAS for data analysis. Topics include how to achieve the best response rate; how to minimize invalid entries and missing values;

designing single- and multiple-response questions; and developing routines for reading data. **Before taking this course**, students should take or understand the concepts covered in "Introduction to SPSS Programming," **or** "Introduction to SAS Programming," **and** "Creating a Web Page with Microsoft FrontPage." **Bring an empty, DOS-formatted 3.5" diskette so you can save your in-class work.**

One three-hour session, held in the Eagle Student Services Lab (ESS 152):

Date	Time	Instructor
Tuesday, November 9	2-5 p.m.	Karl Ho

New Technologies for Survey Research II -- Second in a two part series, this course will emphasize the design of hardcopy questionnaires using new optical scanning technology. Topics include how to design scannable questionnaires; converting old questionnaires to scannable forms or Web surveys; and redesigning multi-channel surveys. **Before selecting this course**, students should complete the "New Technologies for Survey Research I " or have previous experience with and/or understanding of the topics covered there. **Bring an empty, DOS-formatted 3.5" diskette so you can save your in-class work.**

One three-hour session, held in the Eagle Student Services Lab (ESS 152):

Date	Time	Instructor
Tuesday, November 16	2-5 p.m.	Karl Ho

Mainframe Application Support

If you are doing your research using mainframe applications, please be aware that support for the CMS version of SPSS has been discontinued as of October 1. For more details, read Dr. Baczewski's earlier [article](#) in *Benchmarks Online*.

SPSS for MVS, on the other hand, is still functional. We are still pending a patch from the company to render the software Y2K compliant. It is recommended that users of SPSS for MVS do the following to ensure their research projects will not be interrupted should there be a further delay of the release date:

1. Store all SPSS data in portable file format (using the EXPORT OUTFILE command in SPSS) for backup purposes; and
2. Download SPSS portable files from MVS to local disk. Click here on [How to Download Files from MVS?](#) Be reminded that only in portable file format can the data files be read in other versions of SPSS on other platforms (such as UNIX). Raw data files can be transported but require customization of the DATA LIST program to read in the data.
3. Be ready to do analysis on other operating systems such as SPSS 9.0 for Windows and SPSS 6.1 for UNIX).

We have a series of sample programs on our FAQ list created to help smooth the process. Click [here](#) to check our FAQ list.

Software Update

To my surprise (maybe yours too), we don't have much news from our software vendors. SPSS has announced its release of version 10 but we probably will not receive it until December, maybe in 2000. SAS has consolidated its Nashville project and released the developer's release of version 8, which should be available in most [General Access Labs](#). We are still working on the new student version release and hope to have all the paperwork done soon. If all goes well, the software should be available in the UNT Bookstore next month. S-Plus 5.1 for UNIX is already up and running on sol.

The journey to the new millenium has started, well before that magic moment really comes. For us, it is a moment that "warps" us to a new generation. So, behold, **boldly go where no man has gone before**. *Bon Voyage*.

Karl

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

The Internet — It's all Grown Up!*

In case you missed it, the Internet is now 30 years old (for more information, see [Happy birthday: The Net turns 30](#)). It seems only yesterday, that this network was just a gleam in a programmer's eye. We've watched it develop and grow into a fully mature set of technologies. Not surprisingly, it has only come into its own and fully matured in the years 25 through 30, but its development and formative years were influenced greatly by a number of siblings who, sadly enough, never made it to full adulthood.

I think that in honoring the Internet's thirtieth, we should remember and pay tribute to those network technologies that didn't have a chance to make it as far as their now famous sibling. Some have had a lasting and visible influence on the Internet, while others are only a memory recalled when cleaning out old files. We sometimes forget that the ubiquitous Internet of today started as a inaccessible research network. During its development, there were rivals and cohorts that seemed as important then as the Internet does now.

Remembrance of BITNET

It has been such a short time since its demise, and yet BITNET is just a fleeting memory. Established in the early 1980s as a way to inexpensively link computers at universities and colleges around the U.S., at its zenith it probably had more subscribers than the developing Internet at that time. BITNET was interlinked with similar networks around the world. BITNET was a store and forward network which allowed the transfer of mail, files, and interactive one-line messages. This lead to the development of several network applications which are still in use on the Internet today.

LISTSERV was a BITNET creation. Mailing lists in general were one of the most popular uses of BITNET and the development of LISERV by Eric Thomas was one of the driving factors in making mailing lists so popular. LISERV made it easy to manage and subscribe to mailing lists and it is still the most popular of its class still in use on the Internet.

Ever heard of IRC (Internet Relay Chat)? On BITNET, the RELAY network allowed people from all over the world participate on chat channels which covered a wide range of discussion topics. You could also send interactive one-line messages to anyone else logged onto a BITNET-accessible computer.

BITNET's [downfall](#) was the popularity and utility of the Internet. The Internet is a direct-connect network which allowed continuous sessions with remote computers. This made possible things like interactive file transfer (ftp) and remote terminal sessions (telnet). The same technology supports other useful Internet applications like World Wide Web and e-mail. Still, every time you use LISERV you should think of BITNET.

The Gopher Phenomenon

The World Wide Web has been around for a long time. At its inception, it was a way to

organize online information, but it had tremendous overhead, requiring the use of hand inserted tags. It could mix text and graphics, however, there was no generally available client software which could display both at once. At the same time, colleges and universities were looking for a way to organize and present information on a network. The idea of a campus-wide information system became popular and there were a number of solutions which were offered.

The University of Minnesota (the "Golden Gophers") came up with an idea that took hold. It was a client-server protocol that allowed a server to present a simple menu organization and provide text files over the Internet. Gopher was exceedingly easy to manage. Your directory structure became your menu structure. Text files needed no special interpretation by the server or the client. Gopher caught on and rose up in a blaze of glory.

Gopher was searchable by server and searchable as a worldwide network. Gopher could be used as the entree to other Internet services. Gopher supported searches of anonymous ftp servers. Gopher could link to a telnet session which might open a connection to a university library card catalog. Gopher supported searches of indexed text (remember WAIS?).

One day, a research center called the National Center for Supercomputer Research (NCSA) came up with some software named *Mosaic*. *Mosaic* was the first generally available graphical World Wide Web browser and it served as the basis for the program we now know as *Netscape*. All of a sudden, WWW became worth the trouble it was to maintain. Here was a way to mix graphics and text on the same page served over the Internet. Gopher was still limited to a rigid menu structure and every item, text or graphic, appeared as one of the menu elements. "Phhht!" went Gopher's rising star.

Gopher is now mostly just a memory. There are gopher servers still in operation, but its days as a useful network technology have been numbered for quite some time. Web browsers can display information from a Gopher server, but it's been quite some time since I have stumbled upon one. Gopher did, however, provide the proving ground for a number of ideas, the basic one being that online information was a useful and worthwhile endeavor.

The Also-rans

Over the last 20 years, there have been a number of networks that have provided national and worldwide connectivity of one type or another. Before there was an Internet backbone dedicated to the transfer of online information, the simple telephone network was the primary resource to transfer data. Since it was expensive to maintain telephone connections over long distances, distributed networks that would make short and often local phone calls were quite popular.

UUCP stood for UNIX to UNIX Copy. It supported a network of UNIX systems that could make a telephone connection, usually at night when the system was less busy, and exchange various types of information. UUCP supported file transfer and e-mail. Network newsgroups were largely a creation of the UUCP network named *USENET* (as in "USENET News").

A similar idea took hold in the world of Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs, remember them?). It was called FIDONet and was one of the first distributed networks in the U.S. widely used by people who were not associated with colleges or universities. You could even send e-mail to someone if you know their FIDONet address.

Freenets were internet systems that provided various kinds of information and online resources as a public service. The [demise](#) of the Cleveland Free-Net this year marked a sad chapter in Internet development. The Cleveland Free-Net was the first to make the text of

U.S. Supreme Court decisions as available as a recipe for chocolate chip cookies. There are plenty of free sites on the Internet, but few with the public service orientation that the freenets adopted.

The Prospects

As it heads towards middle age, this Internet development shows quite a good prospect to develop and mature. Certainly, you can't argue against the impact that the Internet is having on the operation of our business, education, and cultural environments. Yes, this Internet celebrates a quite happy thirtieth birthday, but as all of us who have passed that mark can concur, there are challenges and struggles yet to come.

* A "slide show" on the history of the Internet can be seen here: <http://web3.foxinternet.net/mwilder/basics/hist1.html> Other sources on Internet history can be found here: http://www.elsop.com/wrc/h_web.htm

Comments, Questions? Send them to [Philip Baczewski](#).

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Each month we highlight one Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list or Website.

Conscience Clicking

Since we are coming to the time of year when Americans thoughts traditionally turn to helping others, we thought we would focus on some ways to surf the Internet and save the world at the same time. You might not actually save the world, but your "conscience clicks" can help. These sites are *guaranteed* not to be [urban legends](#).

- [The Hunger Site at the UN](#) -- Just click a button and somewhere in the world, maybe even in your [home town](#), some hungry person will get a meal to eat at no cost to you. The food is paid for by corporate sponsors. All you have do is to go to the site and click. You're only allowed **one click per day**, however, so spread the word to others.
- [GreaterGood.com online shopping village](#) -- The site allows you to raise money for your favorite not-for-profit organization, simply by doing your regular shopping online -- at no extra cost! When you shop the brand-name stores in the GreaterGood.com online shopping village, five percent or more of your purchase amount is donated to the not-for-profit group of your choice. All you have to do is go to the GreaterGood.com Website and select the not-for-profit organization you wish to benefit. Hit the go button and choose from over 40 stores, including Amazon.com, eToys, The Sharper Image, OfficeMax, 1-800-Flowers, jcrew.com, Hickory Farms, Digital Chef, CBS Sportsline, and more. You're choosing from their complete selection and providing 5% or more of your purchase to charity every time you shop through GreaterGood.com.

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By [Mark Wilcox](#), Campus Web Administrator

Web Directory Service Update

I've developed a new Web-based directory service (e.g. enable you to look up your friends' E-mail addresses & telephone numbers) that we hope to release in November. This directory will be an improvement over our current "[unofficial](#)" [directory](#) in that it will be fed from our central LDAP server which in turn is filled with data from our central administrative databases.

This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we'll leverage off of our new central directory service. In the coming months we will release our "[Bulk Mail System](#)" which will enable faculty and administration to send messages to students via E-mail, instead of having to mail you letters via "snail mail" and release the beginnings of "My UNT", a portal application that will enable you to check your E-mail, enter your WebCT classes, registrar/pay for classes, etc. all from a Web browser (from a single screen).*

Until next time.

Mark

* See "[Webmail: Coming Soon to UNT](#)" in this issue for information on another aspect of this project.

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Editor*

There are still some short courses available this semester. It is not too late to sign up for classes in S-Plus, Creating a Homepage with Netscape, Creating a Homepage with FrontPage, New Technologies for Survey Research I, and New Technologies for Survey Research II. These classes are all **free** for UNT students, faculty, and staff members. Please consult the [Short Courses](#) page for course descriptions and registration.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#).

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. Topics include Windows 95, PowerPoint, Video Conferencing, and a series of classes concerning putting course materials on the World Wide Web using WebCT®.

The center offers a "Brown Bag" series which meets for lunch the first Thursday of each month at Noon in ISB 204. The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. Each meeting is followed, for those interested in using WebCT®, by a one hour orientation for beginners in ISB 203. More information on these activities can be found at the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) Web site.

UNT Libraries'

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab has also offered free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage 98 and information architecture in the past. For more information visit the Multimedia Development Lab's home page at <http://www.library.unt.edu/mmdl>

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available through the Campus-Wide Networks division of the Computing Center. Some of the [seminars](#), such as one on disaster recovery/business continuity planning techniques, may be of interest to others on campus as well.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training ([CBT](#)) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. There are also handouts for computer training (Microsoft Office 97 and Windows 95) on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 -- Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Info on GroupWise for Win3.1
- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to Excel 97
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)
- Using Netscape Communicator and the UNT Home Page

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IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary



IRC Regular Voting Members: Judith Adkison, College of Education; Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Sue Byron, Faculty Senate; Carolyn Cunningham, Student Affairs; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; David Griffiths, Student Association; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Standards & Cooperation Program Group; Allen Livingston, Graduate Student Council; Dan Mauldin, University Planning Council; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Steve Oeffner, UNT Health Science Center; Russ Pensyl, School of Visual Arts; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group; Paul Schlieve, Communications Program Group; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Philip Turner, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for Distance Education and Dean of the School of Library and Information Resources (Chair, IRC);; Virginia Wheelless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Leslie Bowden, Telecommunications; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Michael Forster, UNT Health Science Center; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 9/99]

September 21, 1999

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, CHAIR, JON NELSON, PAM HIGHT (for DON GROSE), GUS SELIGMANN (for SUE BYRON), RAMU MUTHIAH, MAURICE LEATHERBURY (for MARK RORVIG), PAUL SCHLIEVE, JONEEL HARRIS, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JOHN WINDSOR, JUDITH ADKISON, JIM CURRY, ALLEN LIVINGSTON, DAN MAULDIN, JENNY JOPLING, PATRICK PLUSCHT, STEVE OEFFNER

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: LESLIE BOWDEN, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary)

MEMBERS ABSENT: COY HOGGARD, BILL BUNTAIN, RICHARD HARRIS, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, DONNA ASHER, VIRGINIA WHEELLESS, GINNY ANDERSON, KATHLEEN SWIGGER, MIKE FORSTER, DAVID GRIFFITHS, CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM

GUESTS: JENNIFER JOHNSON, WIL CLARK

General Business

The Chair asked for introductions since there were several new members.

Jon Nelson moved for approval of the minutes of the July 20th meeting; Paul Schlieve seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as distributed.

IR Steering Committee

The Chair reported that the IR Steering Committee met in August and adopted the Student Email proposal which had been approved at the July IRC meeting. The Student Email system will be implemented as a pilot program this fall, with full implementation taking place in Spring 2000.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that the Microsoft Campus Agreement software is now available in the UNT Bookstore for purchase by University staff and faculty. Not all programs are available, but the rest will be available soon (with Office 2000 becoming available as soon as it is released by Microsoft). Eligibility to purchase is based on the HRMIS database; therefore, the software is available to all paid staff, faculty and student employees.

Maurice explained that no procedure is currently in place to sell the software over the Web.

Y2K

Joneel Harris reported for Coy Hoggard, concerning Y2K, that the Hummingbird software product is running. This product resolved the Y2K issue with the Novell SAA gateway. Another problem being dealt with now is the Software AG product, Entire Connection; but it is hoped that this will be resolved in the near future. Software AG's product is compatible with Windows 95 and is Y2K compliant, but their product is not compatible with Windows 98. Since most machines at UNT are running Windows 98, this has become a problem.

Instruction Program Group

Jenny Jopling reported that the Instruction Program Group has not met, but she asked Jim Curry to update the council on the classroom support situation. Jim reported that one-third of the classrooms supported by his department are equipped with data projectors. Joneel added that Registrar's office is ready to coordinate between her office and Classroom Support to pre-book classes into rooms that are equipped with certain technology.

Communications Program Group

Paul Schlieve distributed August minutes and reported for the Communications Program Group that the group is addressing issues of the use of firewall technology while trying to avoid negatively impacting creative efforts in instruction and research communications. The committee is also working on the wiring infrastructure initiative which is progressing, albeit sporadically because of the enormous scope of this project. They continue to pursue network connectivity alternatives, in view of a projection that the current capacity will probably not be adequate after this semester. They have met with the Assoc. of Higher Ed. to look at combining Internet and Internet 2 connectivity through the AHE fiber link into a gigapop.

Maurice Leatherbury added that AHE now has 4 or 5 universities committed to joining Internet 2. UNT, however, is one of only a few institutions interested in piggy-backing Internet with Internet 2; so various ways of doing that are being explored. Paul stated that this issue will be discussed at the committee's Sept. 22 meeting. Paul further explained that UNT's connectivity needs seem to be outgrowing what is currently being provided through the Texas state network and yet as a state agency UNT is required to use their network.

Distributed Learning

Patrick Pluscht reported that VIDNET, which is the state-wide video conferencing network under the General Services Commission, is transferring control of that network over to a consortium of educational institutions, headed by Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater, supported by Texas Tech University, and the University of Houston. They are promising lower rates for connection and planning to provide additional support hours. Dr. Turner added that the TTVN has reportedly now closed its membership.

Patrick Pluscht reported that there are currently four rooms being used on campus for video-conferenced classes (Chilton Hall, Information Science Building, Engineering Technology and Environmental Science). They are planning one room for the Dallas campus in the spring and two additional rooms on this campus in the next 12 months. In addition, there are 100 live courses being offered this fall using Web CT components, with 200 more under development. There are roughly 10,000 students taking courses that have a Web CT component. The Center for Distributed Learning has moved from Marquis Hall to Chilton Hall, Room 112. They are upgrading the capacity to have multiple simultaneous conferences in order to have 16 different sites connected at one time.

Administrative Program Group

Joneel Harris reported for the Administrative Program Group that the committee is actively developing a web strategy, and in so doing has investigated a product called Entire X Broker. This product offers a way to totally re-set the way administrative applications are currently being developed. They have worked with Maurice Leatherbury on how to progress with developing a strategy to web-enable student services at UNT. The group is also looking at on-line report viewing software, such as a product from Mobius, one from LSR and another from System Ware. Joneel reported that they are also looking at new student information system software, as well as ways to integrate legacy systems with new software systems.

Research Program Group, Standards & Cooperation Program Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Research Program Group that at the group's next meeting a new chair will be elected and a schedule set for future meetings.

There was no report from Standards & Cooperation Program Group.

Meeting Schedules

The schedule of IRC meetings was distributed to members. It was agreed that the December meeting be moved to Dec. 14; that the May meeting be moved to May 9 and the August meeting be moved to August 8.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. Planned exceptions to this schedule are that December meeting be moved to Dec. 14; that the May meeting will be moved to May 9

and the August will meeting be moved to August 8.

All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

We welcome the following new employees:

- **Margaret Coleman**, Data Entry operator.
- **Christopher Cofer**, ACS UNIX Systems Administrator.
- **Travis Brown**, Compaq Server Maintenance Technician (part-time).
- **Pamela Ballard**, Programmer on the General Data Systems team.

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Veeramachanent Rajendra**, Report Distribution Clerk (part-time).
- **Bhavani Jampala**, Computer Operations (part-time).

Other Changes

- **Ryan Hickey**, Support Services Assistant Manager, has been promoted into a new vacant Computer Support Specialist position in Academic Computing Services' UNIX Systems group.
- **Vicky Walker-Brooks**, Programmer Analyst on the UNT/HSC Payroll/Personnel Data Systems team, has been promoted into a vacant Programmer Analyst position in the Database/Central Programming Support area of Administrative Computing.

Publications, Presentations

- **Mark Wilcox**, Campus Web Administrator, presented a paper at the SIGS Conference on Java in San Jose on October 19. His presentation was on advanced uses of LDAP (in particular with Java).

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Campus Computing News

By [Dr. Maurice Leatherbury](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing

UNT to Join North Texas Internet 2 GigaPOP

The University will soon be connecting to Internet 2 through a fledgling "gigaPOP" (gigabit Point of Presence) that is being established under the auspices of the Alliance of Higher Education. Initially, the membership of the gigaPOP will be UNT, the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Christian University, and the UT Southwestern Medical School. Baylor University in Waco may join within a year, and Southern Methodist University may also join when its current NSF Connections Grant expires. Our plans at this time are to connect to both Internet 2 and "Internet 1" (the current commodity Internet) via a 45 Mbps line: the gigaPOP will be connecting to the Internet 2 Abilene network over a 155Mbps line. The gigaPOP organizational structure is being established now, so it will probably be at least four months before any connections will actually be made to Internet 2.*

UNT System Center at Dallas Technology Plans

In January 2000, UNT will be opening the recently-authorized [System Center](#) at Dallas near the intersection of I20 and Hampton Road in southern Dallas. A group of information technology managers on the Denton campus has been making plans for equipping the new Center, which promises to offer the same high level of technology that we enjoy on the main campus.

The Center will have a general access computer lab, two computer classrooms with machines for each student, a Computing Science lab, permanent computer workstation setups in each classroom, and a library with computers for serving the needs of students for access to the extensive electronic information resources of the Library on the main campus. All classrooms will have the full complement of multimedia equipment that is found in recently-equipped classrooms here in Denton. There will also be a videoconferencing classroom at the Center, connected to the UNT videoconferencing network. Finally, the needs of the faculty and staff at the Center haven't been neglected: all personnel will have access to a computer and printers.

* Since UNT has been working to join Internet 2 since [1998](#), four or five months will fly by in no time.

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Automated VirusScan Updates

By [Wil Clark](#), ACS General Access Lab Manager and Campus Virus Guru

Last month we examined how virus detection software must be kept up to date to fully guard against new virus threats. Our current virus protection software McAfee VirusScan has a mechanism to automate the updating and upgrading of the software. Using these features you can set your software to automatically update and feel confident that you are being protected from the latest viruses.

Remember these features are discussed here primarily to help you with your home computer. You should check with your network administrator before making any changes to your UNT computer as your administrator may have a different mechanism in place for updating it.

You will need to have McAfee VirusScan installed on your computer to use these features. UNT students and employees can download a copy of McAfee VirusScan from <http://www.unt.edu/virus/Distribution>. Please note that you must be on the UNT network or connected through UNT's dial-up access to download these files.

We will configure VirusScan to update its virus definition (dat) files. You may recall that this is the information that VirusScan uses to identify viruses. McAfee releases new datfiles weekly. We will use McAfee VirusScan Scheduler. Perform the following steps:

1. Launch McAfee VirusScan Scheduler (Start -> Programs -> McAfee VirusScan -> McAfee VirusScan Scheduler).
2. Open AutoUpdate properties (Right-click on AutoUpdate then click on Properties).
3. Click Configure... button.
4. Delete existing Update sites (Click on a site then click Delete button; repeat for each site).
5. Add UNT update site (Click Add... button).
6. Type UNT for Site Name.
7. Enable site (click on and ensure a check mark appears in the Enabled box).
8. Choose FTP for Select Transfer Method (click on and ensure a dot appears in the FTP circle).
9. Type **ftp.unt.edu/pub/antivirus/datfiles/4.x** for the FTP computer name and directory field.
10. Enable Anonymous FTP Login (click on and ensure a check mark appears in the Use anonymous FTP login box).
11. Click OK on the Automatic Update Properties dialog box.
12. Click OK on the Automatic Update dialog box.
13. Click the Schedule tab on the Task Properties dialog box.
14. Enable the automatic update (click on and ensure a check mark appears in the Enable box).
15. Choose a frequency for the update to run (click on one of the choices in the Run section). Note: your computer must be on and connected to the Internet for this to work. It might be useful to choose a more frequent update period to ensure that you get weekly updates.

16. Choose an appropriate Start at time for the frequency you selected.

Once this is configured your computer will automatically look for updates to the Datfiles. Your virus scanning software will be updated and you don't have to remember to update it. Each time your dat files are updated you will be prompted to reboot your computer. This must occur to begin using the new dat files.

Now that is one less thing you have to remember to do. Are you forgetting anything else?

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Webmail: Coming Soon to UNT!

By [Dianna Mullet](#), UNIX System Administrator

Webmail has been a hot item on the Net for the past several years in the form of free Internet mail accounts. Sites like Hotmail™ and Yahoo have been used by literally millions of Internet users all over the world, but until recently, similar Webmail clients were not widely available for sites like UNT, who wanted to provide their own Webmail service. 1999 marked the first year that a variety of Webmail clients were either freely or commercially available.

If you're not familiar with Webmail, it's a site on the World Wide Web that's used to access IMAP (and POP) mail that's stored on a server. With Webmail, you can read the same mail from any computer, as long as the computer has a Web browser like Netscape or Internet Explorer — no special software or plug-ins are required. Since Webmail preferences are also stored on the server, not your computer's hard drive, you'll get the same address books, personal preferences, and look-and-feel regardless of which computer you're on when you run it.

Back in January, the ACS UNIX group began evaluating Webmail clients. We ruled out several clients: some clients relied on back-end databases that would have been difficult to manage or migrate to other Webmail systems in the future; others (mainly the freely available clients) were bizarrely complex to install and upgrade; and others were still in alpha release without evidence that maintenance would be continued. Eventually, we narrowed the options down to four clients and early in October, made demos of the four clients available to students.

Webmail Demos

The Webmail demos will be available to all students for evaluation until October 31 at 5 PM. The home page for all four demos is <http://testmail.unt.edu/>. Webmail will be supported in addition to, not in lieu of, the current supported E-mail programs (Pine and Simeon) that students use to read their IMAP mail.

There are four Webmail clients up for evaluation:

1. Execmail Web
2. Mailspinner
3. Infinite Technologies WebMail
4. SilkyMail

ACS is basing the selection of a Webmail client on feedback from students. On the day following the October 31 deadline, comments will be tallied up (results will be posted to the testmail.unt.edu Web site) and the most popular Webmail client will be purchased. Webmail will officially be made available to all students at the beginning of the spring semester.

As of October 18, 71 "votes" had been submitted. Mailspinner (25 votes) is in the lead. Users who like Mailspinner say that it's easy to use and has features

that they find useful, such as address book storage and the capability to do remote LDAP address book searches. Execmail Web (22 votes) is a very close second. Users liked its professional quality interface and simplicity ("everything on one screen"). Infinite Technologies WebMail (18 votes) came in third, and users who preferred WebMail say that it's interface is its best feature. Unfortunately, SilkyMail (6 votes) is a beta version, and users were put off by its beta-version bugs.

Your Opinion Counts!

Please try the evaluations and let us know what you think! Student feedback is essential. The more specific the comments, the more it helps ACS understand what students expect in a Webmail application. Send your comments to operator@unt.edu.

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New UNT Search Engine

By [Shane Jester](#), Central Web Support

The UNT Website now has a new and improved search engine. The engine is currently in beta testing and can be located at <http://www.unt.edu/webinfo/htdig/>. The engine is powered by ht://Dig, a GNU product located at <http://www.htdig.org>.

Key Features:

- Meta Tag Support - Words placed in meta tags will be given precedence in index
- Variable Sorting Styles - by time, title, score, reverse
- Configurable Search Results - long or short format and variable match patterns
- Indexing of HTML and text files
- Standard Robot Exclusion

Be aware that only those sites linked to an indexed Website on campus will be indexed by the search engine. The search engine currently indexes over forty different Websites on campus and is powered by a 300 Megabyte database.

If your Website does not appear in the search results contact Central Web Support to confirm that your Website is being indexed. Feel free to send any comments to www@unt.edu

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UNT Event Calendar Revisited

By [Sharon Marek](#), Web Developer UNT Central Web Support and [Kenn Moffitt](#), PAIS

Last month's [article](#) announced the new event calendar. This month's article provides you with more details. -- Ed.

A new and improved UNT Event Calendar is now on the UNT Web. The address is <http://www.unt.edu/events> The new calendar provides an improved tool to aid in communication between departments, scheduling of events, and event publicity and marketing. The calendar provides the following features:

- An improved user interface that visually displays events at a glance on a monthly basis for information or scheduling.
- The ability to preview scheduled events up to a year in advance.
- The ability to show only a specific category of events such as "Only UNT Events", "UNT and Metroplex Events Combined", or "Academic Dates".
- A user-friendly preference option that allows a user to set the calendar to display only the events that a UNT community member is interested in viewing.
- An easy data entry system to add appropriate new events to the calendar.
- A Master Calendar Coordinator who checks all new events before they are scheduled in the calendar and checks for possible conflicts with other large events.
- Icons incorporated into the calendar that show "heavy expected attendance" or "traffic warnings," which allow a scheduler to pick the most appropriate dates for new events.
- The ability to integrate events scheduled for the Web Event Calendar with the events calendar on the monitors located throughout the University.
- An online reporting function that allows a user to generate a report of UNT events throughout a specific time period.
- A "Help" link that will explain to the user how to use the calendar.

Adding Events

To add events to the calendar, you must first apply for a calendar account. If you click on the "Add New Event" icon from the calendar page, you will have the option to log in with your user name and password if you already have an account. If you don't already have an account, you can click on the "Create a New Calendar Account" link. From this link, you will be asked to supply some basic information about yourself and your intended use of the calendar. The

calendar is used to inform the UNT community of events with public appeal for the entire UNT community or that have high attendance or will affect traffic during the event. Once your new account is approved, you will be emailed with the acceptance and can now use the "Add New Event" icon to log in and enter your event.

Once you are ready to add a new event to the calendar. You will be asked general information about the event's date, time etc. When the event is successfully entered into the calendar system, the Master Calendar Coordinator will approve the event. The Master Calendar Coordinator will first check the event for any possible conflicts that might occur. The Master Calendar Coordinator will also make sure that the event is relevant to the UNT community as a whole.

Appropriate events will also be posted to the video monitors that you see all around campus. Reports are also created from the event calendar and sent to the necessary departments such as the UNT Police Department.

For further questions about the UNT Event Calendar check the calendar site <http://www.unt.edu/events> or contact the Master Calendar Coordinator lisae@unt.edu .

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FrontPage 2000

By [Sharon Marek](#), Web Developer UNT Central Web Support

As the new campus agreement for Microsoft software rolls out, more and more people are installing FrontPage 2000, the newest version of FrontPage for Windows and UNIX-based platforms. FrontPage is the Web editing software supported for faculty and staff by Central Web Support.*

FrontPage has two major components: the client (software that's installed on your desktop), and the server extensions (software that's installed on the server). The central Web servers at UNT have the FrontPage 2000 extensions installed. But don't worry - your copy of FrontPage 98 or FrontPage 97 will still work normally.

There are a few significant changes from FrontPage 98 to FrontPage 2000. In FrontPage 98, for example, the Explorer (file management) and the Editor (page editing) were separate. In FrontPage 2000, these functions are integrated. And there are a few minor organizational changes, as well. For instance, those of you used to finding the 'bookmark' (the target for an internal link) in the Edit menu should look in the Insert menu, instead. But generally speaking, those familiar with FrontPage 98 shouldn't have any difficulty upgrading to FrontPage 2000.

And there are some exciting new features as well. One new feature is the ability to tell FrontPage not to adjust your HTML - so those of us that code our own in the HTML can code freely, knowing that FrontPage won't "correct" it anymore.

Central Web Support has FrontPage documentation at <http://www.unt.edu/webinfo/tutor/> - including a Reference Sheet and Tutorial for FrontPage 2000.

Contact your [Network Manager](#) to have FrontPage 2000 installed on your local computer.

*FrontPage for the Macintosh has yet to be upgraded from the original FrontPage 1.0 for that platform. It still works with FrontPage 2000, though.

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Learning Online

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor and [Matt Graham](#), UNT Libraries

In December of 1997, the University of North Texas signed a contract with CBT Systems* to provide computer based training (CBT) on a wide variety of computer-related subjects. There are a variety of training needs on campus, and it was determined that computer based training would best accommodate different learning styles and busy schedules. In CBT, the computer acts as your personal tutor, presenting instruction in an interactive multimedia format. With this self-paced, self-directed format you can customize your training by selecting only topics of interest to you, or you can let the program guide you through each lesson starting with the basics.

CBT on the Web

The UNT/CBT Systems Web site can be found at <http://cbt01.library.unt.edu/>. Currently, CBT Systems courses are only available for Windows-based PCs. For information about courses already licensed from CBT Systems, go to <http://cbt01.library.unt.edu/Custom/INDEX.HTM>. There are currently 340 courses. The [login page](#) has a link to the registration form and other helpful links. Student accounts are removed after each semester.

CBT on CD-ROM

There are also some courses available on CD-ROM at the [UNT Bookstore](#). These CDs run on Windows 95/98, Windows 3.x, and Windows NT. Computer Base Training CD-ROMs for sale at the UNT Bookstore now are (Click on a link for a list of titles on a particular CD):

- [Internet Skills/Netscape Communicator 4.0](#) - \$10 [These CBT courses are bundled with a full set of [Internet software](#) preconfigured to access UNT remote access resources.]
- [IntranetWare 4.11 Administration](#) - \$15
- [Windows NT 4.0](#) - \$15 (server administration and user titles)

*CBT Systems has recently changed its name to [SmartForce](#).